

Jacob Bull-Cairnes House  
104 E. Broadway  
Bel Air  
private

This charming house is one of the most important buildings in Town for its effect on the Town's architectural development. The first Bel Air house built in the Queen Anne style, it was by Jacob Bull, who would become Bel Air's Master Builder. The 1878 date is significant. The first mature house built in America in the Queen Anne style was the 1874 Watts Sherman House in Newport, Rhode Island, designed by H. H. Richardson. The English Pavilion at the 1876 Centennial Exposition was built in the English form of the style, and it took the Country by storm. Two years later, Jacob Bull, a thirty year old carpenter who had been in business in Bel Air for about ten years, built this house as his residence and Master Piece. The house has many of the features that made the style so popular: a serene kind of facade irregularity with advancing and retreating planes, large encompassing gables with shaped shingle decoration, deep shady porches, dormers, and - the house's most distinctive feature - a corner tower, square and springing confidently from the east corner of the second story to terminate in a kind of broached conical roof. The interior of the house is entirely modern since its renovation into apartments, but from the placement of the front door one can assume a center hall plan.

This house had enormous influence on Bel Air's architectural development. Shortly after it was built, elements of the Queen Anne vocabulary began to appear on other houses, especially shaped shingles decorated gables and the small pane windows (not in this house) that reminded people of Elizabethan England. The center hall plan never really caught on in Town; Bel Air preferred the side hall. There are, however, two center hall Queen Anne houses in Town, one certainly by Jacob Bull and the other possibly by him - the Doxen House, 314 N. Hickory, and the Tebecca Evans House, 612 Rock Spring - that show what Bel Air could make of this style. They are rigidly symmetrical; Bel Air residents could not bring themselves to build asymmetrical houses like Jacob Bull's house very often. The best example of the side hall Queen Anne is the Hanway House, 200 S. Main Street, built in 1901.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Jacob Bull House

AND/OR COMMON

Cairnes House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

104 E. Broadway

1st

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Harford

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☒ OTHER rental**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mrs. Brodnax Cameron, Jr.

Telephone #: 838-5620

STREET &amp; NUMBER

310 Toll Gate Road

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21014

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: 682

Folio #: 243

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE  
Maryland**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

NA-1363

**CONDITION**

☒ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This two and a half story ship-lap sided Queen Anne house is at 104 E. Broadway in the Town of Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland. The house is fairly complex with advancing and receding planes, varied materials, various porches, and a handsome corner tower, probably Bel Air's first. The facade (south elevation) has five bays, making it unusually wide in the context of Bel Air's architecture. The middle three bays have a broad gable with fish-scale shingles and a pair of 2/2 double-hung sash windows and shutters. These three bays and the fourth (to the east) project. The easternmost bay terminates in an unusual tower. In the first story this bay behaves like a hexagonal bay window. It is topped by an ordinary square second story bay supported on massive panelled brackets. Then the third story breaks away to a free-standing tower with a pair of 2/2 windows in front (east) and a tall broached conical roof like a witch's hat, an enchantingly complex conceit. The basic gable roof begins behind this tower. The westernmost bay on the facade recedes and has a continuation of the ordinary gable roof whose east and west gables have a pair of 2/2 windows. The hipped roof front porch is across the west bay and the next two bays and probably went round the corner along the west elevation although the south two-thirds of that portion is now enclosed. The front porch is carried on chamfered posts that have scroll brackets. The brackets on the side are simple carved ones. The main entrance was once on the front elevation but since the house was made into apartments, the entrance to the center hall dividing the flats is from the rear (north).

The east elevation is flat and two bays wide, but the west elevation, which fronts on Franklin Street has more interest. It has a second story hipped roof porch carried on stock turned posts and has a balustrade on quite slender turned balusters.

The rear (north) elevation has two gable-roofed dormers in the gable roof. They have slate sides, a pediment with fish scale shingles, 2/2 windows and narrow shutters. The rear elevation was probably four bays wide. The gable roofed two story ell on the west half of the elevation was probably added at the time the house was renovated, for, on the ground floor, at least, it has the bedrooms and bath to the apartment. The eastern two bays have a shed roof porch, partially enclosed.

Two center chimneys rise, probably on either side of what was once the center hall.

The interior was gutted. Today the center hall faces the rear with an enclosed stair along the west end. There are two flats on the first floor.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1878

~~XXXXXXXX~~/ARCHITECT Jacob Bull

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This early Queen Anne house is perhaps the most influential house in Town for the development of Bel Air architecture. It was built by Jacob Bull, the man who would become Bel Air's Master Builder, on land he bought in 1877 from Dr. William Munnikhuyzen (36/41). It will be remembered that the Queen Anne style took the United States by storm after the English buildings for the 1876 Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia were built in that style. The 1878 building date is certain. The house is on the map of that year, and the land was purchased in November 1877. That makes this a very early Queen Anne house built in a Town that had previously showed no particular interest in current architectural style with the exception of the Gothic Proctor House (before 1873) on Gordon Street. At the time builder Bull built this house, his neighbors were building three bay houses with front gables (when they weren't building three bay houses without front gables). The house is still unique for the broached roof on the tower, which gives the effect of a witch's hat. After Bull built in this new style, his neighbors began to pick up portions of the Queen Anne vocabulary and ask for them in their own buildings - some of which were, of course, designed by Jacob Bull. By the mid-1880's a few advanced souls were building fairly well articulated Queen Anne houses in Town. Until the Classical Revival style caught on after World War I, the Queen Anne is about the only national style Bel Air built domestic structures in. Jacob Bull was the man who taught them how, and this attractive house was his teaching tool.

This was a double lot, and he built a house next door the next year (the Robinson House, 112 E. Broadway), which may have strained the exchequer. In 1881 he sold this house to James H. File for around \$2000 (42/456) and probably moved into the simpler house next door (he sold that one in 1885). File moved to Wilmington, Delaware, and sold the property to George Cairnes in 1883 (46/234). It stayed in the Cairnes family until 1962 when it was sold to the Bel Air Development Co. (600/211). That company sold it to Mignon Cameron (Mrs. Brodnax Cameron, Jr.) in 1965 (682/243).

It has been divided into four handsome modern apartments, a fact that is unfortunate for the surveyor, for it means that the house was gutted and the original interior is no longer available for inspection. We will never know how Jacob Bull decorated his house inside.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property occupies parcel #322 in the Town of Bel Air.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Marilynn Larew, Architectural Historian

3 December 1979

ORGANIZATION

Town of Bel Air

838-8700

STREET &amp; NUMBER

39 Hickory Avenue

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

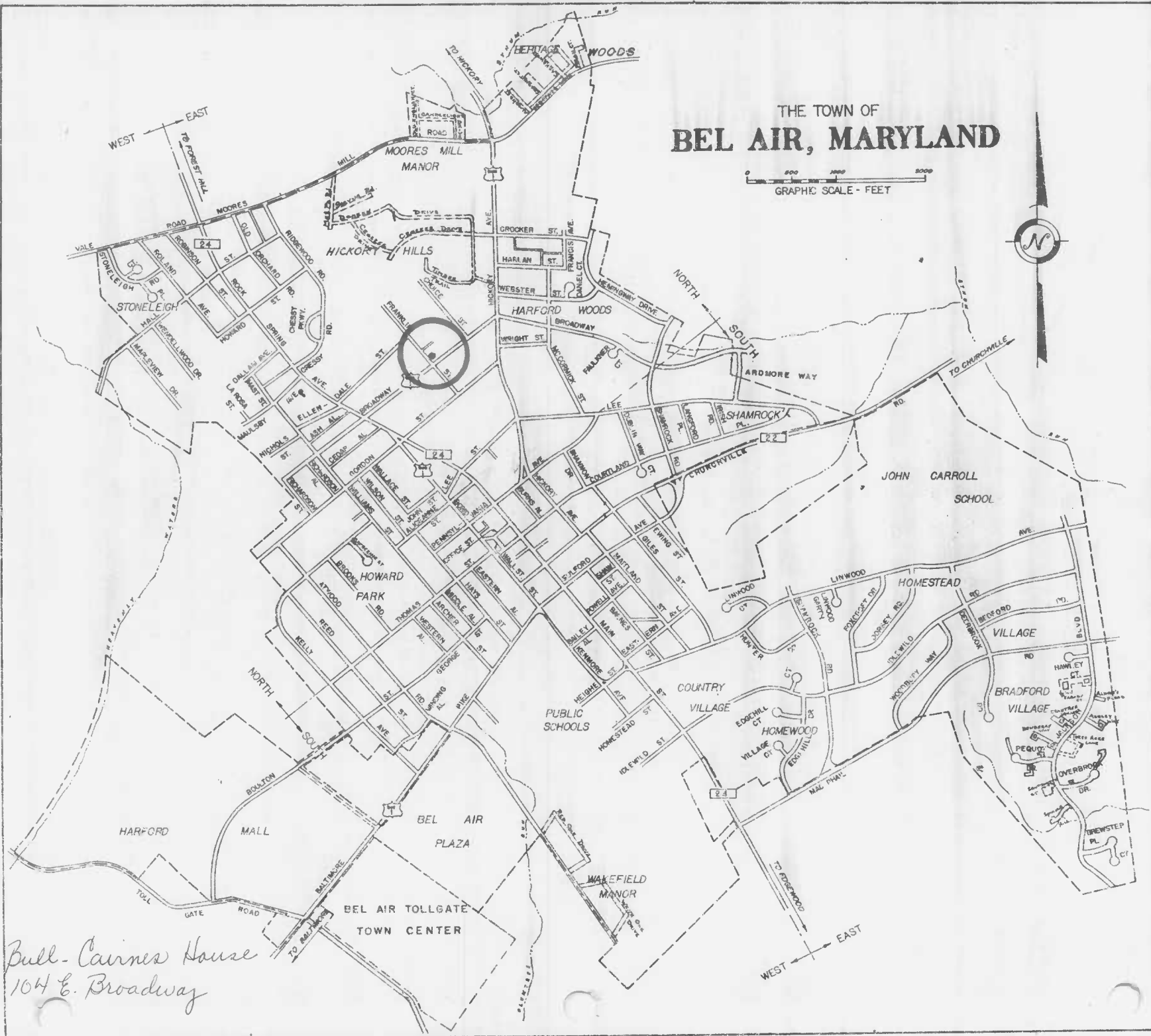
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

TITLE: 104 E. Broadway

682/243	21 July 1965 Bel Air Development Co. to Mignon Cameron
600/211	7 September 1962 Benton Gross, executor of Annie H. Cairnes to Bel Air Development Co. \$17,000 The property belonged to George R. Cairnes. He left it to Minnie and Annie Cairnes, his daughters (will 17/195). Minnie died in 1957 and left her share to Annie (will 25/317). Not long afterward Annie died (will 1961, 25/496).
46/234	19 February 1883 James H. File & Eva of Wilmington, Del. to George R. Cairnes \$900 and assumption of mortgage
42/456	5 April 1881 Jacob Bull & Mary & S. A. Williams to James H. File \$1100 \$800 mortgage to S. A. Williams
36/41	1 November 1877 Dr. William F. Munnikhuysen & Elizabeth to Mary Bull, wife of Jacob Bull 208 x 271¼

# THE TOWN OF BEL AIR, MARYLAND

0 500 1000 2000  
GRAPHIC SCALE - FEET



HA-1368

Bull-Cairnes House  
104 E. Broadway





HA-1368

Bull. Cairnes House, 104 E. Broadway, Tel An  
w. elev

M. Laws, 1979





